IT'S A SHAME THE WAY HE FAILS TO PAY HIS DEBTS.

Some Instances of Deserving Claims Which Have Been Before Congress for Years and Years-Mr. Springer's Plan for a Court of Claims.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Aug : -- If you want to have your faith in Uncle Sam shaker come down to the capital and note the manner in which he pays his debts. I say it in serrow and humiliation that Uncle Sam is a dead best. We all know he is rich, and constantly growing richer, that he has millions of dollars locked up in his strong box, and yet he never pays a debt if he can get out of it by hook or crook, and 11 nothing else will release him from his obligations he stands ready to plead the Statute of Limitations. One day last week the country was told in the press reports of the passage in the house of representatives of the famous McKay claim. No doubt that was a just claim or it could never have run the gantlet of legislative scrutiny. But thousands upon thousands of claims equally just are pending before congress. Some of them have been pending for twenty-five, fifty, even a hundred years. Not a few of them will be pending a half century or a century hence.

You may see in the corridors of the Capitol here, haunting the rooms of the various committees on claims, the grandsons of men who filed claims in their prime, and who died poor and disappointed, leaving as a heritage to their sons and their son's sons and grandsons an unhonored obligation of the "greatest government under the sun." There are in the pigeon holes of the claims committees, dust covered and spider webbed, bushels of claims growing out of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War. Wagon loads of claims arising out of the war of the rebellion are here. All the claims committees are years behind in their work. Sometimes they work pretty hard, too, despite the discouraging outlook. They know very well that not one in a hundred of the claims which they examine and find good and valid will ever be paid. It is love's labor lost, but still they go on grinding out the bills.

When a claimant succeeds in coaxing a member to introduce his bill he thinks the battle half won, and in his dreams sees piles of government gold and greenbacks spread out before him. When the bill is reported favorably by the committee, and placed upon the calendar of the house, the claimant's hope matures into confidence. "It is a just bill-does not the committee unanimously say so?and of course Uncle Sam pays his honest debts, doesn't he?" In a week, of a month at the latest, the claimant thinks, his bill will become law and the treasary doors will open to him.

The experienced congressman tells his claimant to go home—that nothing is to be gained by remaining here. Lucky the claimant who accepts this good advice, and goes home before hotel bills have eaten up the little substance he has and left him stranded. Many poor fellows—and poor women, too, for many women come to congress pressing claims -stay here till they can't get home, and remain to haunt the corridors as living, pitiable witnesses of the red tape and impenetrable barriers a great government hedges its treasury with. The 233 and 235 South Main Street, . . . . Wichita, Kansas. calendar is full to overflowing with such bills. There are now more than 1,900 private bills on the calendar, and not two dozen of them will succeed in running the gantlet to the statute book. Many of these bills on the calendar have been put there by successive congresses for a dozen or thirty years.

Just claims that ought to be paid? Yes. Obligations which a solvent, honest individual or a respectable railway or other corporation would pay? Yes. And yet the government will never pay 5 per cent, of them. Of course it is not be cause the government is dishonest, nor because members of congress are faithless, indolent or ungenerous. It is the fault of the system of government by congress. Congress has too much to do. It is a big machine, but it is unequal to the task which comes to it. Its members, its committees, its ramifications are many, but the question in congress always is which dozen of ten thousand meritorious measures shall we consider and pass? And so the claimants come and go, the private calendar piles up and up, and no progress is made toward liquidating the many millions which Uncle Sam owes.

Many remedies have been sought for this deplorable, almost disgraceful, condition of affairs, but none is more practical than the suggestion of Representative Springer, who would have a court of claims, with jurisdiction over all such cases as are now pending before congress. The radical and unjust method of passing a constitutional amendment taking claims away from congress entirely, and compelling claimants to make their cases in the ordinary courts of law, has been proposed. Speaker Reed favors sweeping away all the claims that have been pending more than ten years, because this would "remove the temptation to waste lives and hopes in chasing the will-o'-the-wisp of congressional justice." The speaker adds, "Energies which could have made new fortunes have too often been spent in vain pursuit of decisions of congress which never have been obtained." Mr. Springer, who was once a member

of the committee on claims, and who gave up the chairmanship of that committee and resigned from it because he did not like to have his heartstrings tugged at twenty times a day by deserving but hopeless claimants, says the and if he lives to be 200 years old may honor of the government is involved in the question of providing a means of adjudicating and paying all the public obligations. There is now a court of claims, but it has jurisdiction over those cases which congress refers to it, and over none other. Mr. Springer wants a court of claims that shall have original jurisdiction, with appropriations in lump to meet the judgments. It is found now that it is almost as difficult to get a claim referred to the court of claims by congress as it is to induce congress to pay the claim outright. Surely congress has enough to do without sitting as a court on the number of hogs and chickens taken from a loyal citizen by the federal soldiers. And surely the government is creat and rich enough to pay for

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enerman as an attorney to prosecute his claim, and has been prosecuting it with vigor ever since.

Here is a case which admits of no

doubt. Uncle Sam has for twenty-five

years had eight or ten thousand dollars

of Mr. Thorne's money. And the chances are Uncle Sam will keep it, too.

builder, lost his chest of tools in the Fan-

nie, sunk at Fortress Monroe. He wants

congress to pay him for the tools \$410.25,

and he has thus been wanting for many

In Kentucky White, Horton & Gar-

rard had extensive salt works and wells

which Gen. Buell destroyed to prevent

their falling into the hands of the ene-

my. The only doubt about the justness of the claim was as to the loyalty of the

claimants. On this the committee say:

All were believed to be loyal except Daniel Gar-rard. He was 83 years of age, and took no pains

to conceal his southern proclivities. But as he was the father of Brig. Gen. T. T. Gerrard, of the Federal army, and of Col. James H. Gerrard, reasures of the state of Kentocky, both true and loyal men, the commissioner was of opinion that the virtues of the sons should overshadow the follow of the father.

Away back in 1849 William L. Martin

sold to Lieut. Hawkins, for the use of

United States troops, a herd of cattle

valued at \$2,500. Lieut. Hawkins was out

of funds and could not pay the bill. The

Indians attacked the supply train and

delivery, and then Lieut. Hawkins be-

came insane, and so continued till

death. Therefore Martin was never

able to get pay for his cattle. Senator

Spooner, of the senate claims commit-

tee, thinks Martin has a good case. But

he has had a good case for forty years

and it is still unsettled. This claimant

asks Congress to pay him interest on the

amount of his claim, but as Senator

Spooner says in his report, Congress

never pays interest. Uncle Sam, sad to

say, is mean enough to enjoy the use of

other people's money for twenty-five or

pense therefor. It is difficult enough to

Nathan Harris bought in Louisville,

Ky., in 1864, at a government sale of condemned stores, blankets and other

goods amounting to the sum of \$2,862.50,

and took them to his store in Cincinnati.

O., to be retailed. He was arrested and

the goods seized by government detect-

ives on the charge of unlawfully purchas-

induce him to pay back the principal.

years.

lies of the father.

was loyal. Concerning the charge that fifty years without giving any recom-

David D. Smith, a carpenter and boat

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au the chicks and pigs it has taken with-

out compensation, and all the countless

other obligations which it has incurred

Government claims present a curious

admixture of misfortune, accident, greed,

patience, millions and pennies. One man

wants pay for a steamboat, another for

a horse. Here are the French spoliation

claims, involving fortunes. They origi-

nated more than a century ago. All the original claimants and most of their

heirs are dead. The claims are still vig-

orously pressed, however, by the attor-

neys into whose hands they have fallen.

The contingent fees have in this case

swallowed up the principal. Out there in the corridor sits poor, patient Billy McGarrahan. He has been atting there

for twenty-eight years, waiting and waiting for congress to do him justice. Bills for his relief have passed both

branches of the national legislature, but

never in the same congress. His claim,

involving millions, is a perfectly just

one, and every one knows it ought to be

paid. But it never will be, and poor,

patient Billy will probably sit out there in the corridor till he dies.

Let us take a glance at a half dozen of

these claims as they come at random out

of one of the many pigeon holes in the

claims committee room. H. W. Keyes

After his discharge he was drafted in a

district of which he was not a citizen,

and paid the \$300 commutation money.

Then he again enlisted and was griev-ously wounded. Now he wants his \$300

back. Of course he ought to have it,

John D. Thome bought at auction in

Louisiana during the war \$5,000 worth

of cotton. It was sold through the gov-ernment cotton agent in New York and

the money covered into the treasury,

Thome not getting a cent of it. Thome

he has not prosecuted his claim with due

It seems that very shortly after the property

was taken claimant proceeded at once to take proof as to his ownership, etc.; that in 1986 he sect on his papers containing his proofs to his nephew, then a resident of Washington and a law

yer: that he subsequently, but within the time prescribed by law, placed his claim in the hands of one Justin McCarty, a lawyer practicing in the

diligence the committee reports:

was an enlisted soldier from Wisconsin.

in war and peace.

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States Commissioner Holliday, but in fact the goods were never restored and no compensation was ever made for them. A quarter of a century of earnest effort on Mr. Harris' part has failed to induce ran away with most of the cattle after the United States to return him his mo-

> Uncle Sam, who we all know is at times generous and grand, can be as close in his business dealings as the bark on a tree. He can even be mean. Andrew S. Core thinks so. Mr. Core was in 1864 collector of internal revenue in the wild, mountainous region of West Virginia. There were rebels and guerrillas and outlaws and moonshiners there, and in collecting the revenue Mr. Core took his life in his hands from day to day. He collected what he could, but on settling up with the treasury depart-ment was not only not paid his salary, but was required to pay \$5.568 out of his own pecket because some of his deputies had not turned in taxes collected by them The claims committee very properly recommends that Mr. Core be paid his sulary and that the \$5,568 be returned to him. In the sweet by and by perhaps he will get it. Our Uncle Samuel is a

Oatmeal water for toflet uses is made by boiling a small quantity of outmoul in wa-

Baron Hirsch, of Paris, who lately made the munificent permanent bequest of \$10,000 a month to aid poor immigrant Hebrews in the United States, is coming to America during the autumn. He is reputed to be the richest private person in Europe, and has been a conspicnous figure in London fashionable circles during the late "season," as the particular friend of the Prince of Wales, who has introduced him everywhere.

The national library of Rio Janeiro contains 150,000 volumes, and is especialby rich in manuscripts and literary curiosities. That is the place for novelists to go and find material for historical romances. Ex-Emperor Dom Pedro, who is writing for a German paper an article on the Tupi Indians, no longs for a chance to consult that library.

Gustave Bourcaud, a citizen of Nantes, has a hobby for bills and posters. He made an exhibition of his collection last spring for a local charity of Nantes, and was able to produce designs in this peglected but not humble line of art by a large number of artists who made some mark in their day. A catalogue was tastes more delicious in the mountains, supplied by the collector.

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Great Bound Spectacles, and a Fan in

His Hand Instead of a Caue Chinese

How would you like a schoolmaster like

the gentieman depicted in our cut? How wise he looks, with his great round specta-cles, and how funny for a schoolmaster to have a fan in his hand instead of a cane. As for the fan, every Chinaman carries

one, but the teacher has also a bamboo cane, though he seldom uses it, as Chinese children are most obedient and respectful to their teachers, who induce them to learn

A CHINESE SCHOOLMASTER.

of incense is lighted which burns slowly and the boy has to remain kneeling until it

is consumed down to a certain point. If

neither persuasion nor fear of disgrace has any effect, then the hamboo cane is tried,

but not until all other means have failed.

The surprising size and shape of Chinese

spectacles are proof of their native origin, and not copies from those of Europe. Indeed, spectacles appear to have been worn by the Celestials long before they were in use among western nations. These spectacles are kept in place with silken cords,

with plummets attached to them and passed behind the cars. But fashions

change even in China, and the natives ob

serving the superior convenience of the

spectacles worn by other nations are be-ginning to adopt them; so before long it is

probable that the kind shown in the cut

A Statue with a History.

Germany which has a pretty history. It

is set up at Kaiserslantern to the memory of the late Emperor Frederick. Some years ago, while still crown prince, he paid

a visit to the hospital at Kaiserslautern, where a number of Protestant ladies care

for sick children. The crown prince went about in his kindly way, stooping his tail form to talk with some of the little ones. Among them was a little cripple, son of an

infantry sergeant. The crown prince asked him his name, and when the little fellow

shyly said it was Frederick, the prince took his little namesake in his arms and caressed him. The little boy was at-

tracted by the stars and crosses which the crown prince, who was in uniform, wor

on his breast, and began fingering them while the prince chatted with him. This little episode was never forgotten at Kai serslautern, and when the emperer died

they raised his statue with the little bey in his arms playing with the medals on his

breast. The statue, which is of bronze and a little over life size, stands in the quad-

rangle of the hospital closs by the spo-

He stood beneath the great cornstalk, Our little 4 year-old, And pulled the hanging tassel down

"Oh, see the corn has golden hair,"
He said, "and see it shipe—
And yet it doesn't curl at all—
It's not at all like mine!"

"I wonder how the corn would like

And comb and brush it every day And curl it round his thurn't

I wish that I had hair like this— That would be always right— Instead of having tangles pulled

Morning, noon and night:"

—Little Men and Women

Marjorie's Illness

The day after her party Marjorie was cross and fretful. The old lady who lived

next door said that it was budness, and that she ought to be punished. But instead

of punishing her Marjorie's mamma held her in her arms, and rocked her and sang

to her. After a while we found that Mar-jorie was ill, and so we sent for the doctor,

and he said she had scarlet fever.
Well, then they would not let any one

Origin of the Word "Pagan."

of a pagus, or village, a countryman. It came to mean "heathen" because it was

chiefly in the country, outside the towns, that the worshipers of the old national

The introduction of the siphon has made

a revolution in summer potables. It is now

possible to procure the most delicious soda water for home use. A siphon of this wa-

ter kept in the ice box and added to any rich, home made fruit alrup will make in a

nonce a refreshing summer drink.

The strup which is often left over after

preserving pineappie, pencies, raspterries, strawberries or any other fruit; should al

woods or sesside than this home sods.

gods were allowed to continue.

A "Pagan" was originally the inhabitant

where he took up the little cripple.

Of fine and eilky gold.

A statue has recently been erected in

will be seen no more.

Children at School.

25cts: a Box. OF ALL DRUGGISTS. The Chinese School Teacher, with His

I know her face is very plain— It goes against my will; But the fact show her rion father's child To are is plainer still.

An Easily Arranged Portiero. In our cut is shown a portiere which, though simple and easily arranged, will be found to have a good effect in any material that drapes nicely.

Cretonne, rep, tapestry or plush is lined



hung in wavy folds, held by an upholster A breadth of the material is added at the side to fall from the top as a drapery,

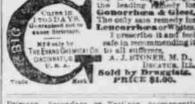
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case we can not cure. Mention this COOK REMEDY CO., Omaka, Nebrodia.

POSITIVE To LOTT or WALLING MANROOD, COURT WORK AND WARREND TO THE WALLING THE WALLING TO THE WALLING THE WALLING

come into the room, lest some other little girl should get it. And Marjorie's mamma ERRORS OF YOUTH. and papa nursed her for six weeks, and she had to take a great deal of medicine. BUFFEREIGN FROM We always used to taste it first, to see Take 1 ptll at Fig. re., g to bed. In some year whether it was nice or not; and if it was not nice then Marjorle got a present for taking it. One of the presents was a cap for Dolly, a cap which covered her head. so that you could not see where it was broken. Marjorle was afraid that Dolly would take the scarlet fever, but I think she must have had it, as, although frequently exposed to it, she kept well all the time.—St. Nicholas. New England Medical Institute.

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ways be canned and set aside to be used with siphens of sods water. Nothing Gus Saur, 524 East Douglas